

HIGHLIGHTS

June 2003

A Children & Youth Services Newsletter for Volunteers & Mentors of CYS-Project Together

Vol. XVIII, No. 6

For Your Information...

Who Mentored You?

What do Tom Brokaw, Gloria Estefan, Larry King and Nelson Mandela have in common? They all had mentors during their early years who encouraged them in some manner and helped them become what they are today. The Harvard Mentoring Project, an initiative of the Harvard Center for Health Communication, conducted videotaped interviews and collected written essays in which prominent people from various fields talk about their mentors. These inspirational video interviews and essays are available at www.whomentoredyou.org

The primary objective of the project is to reinforce the belief that one person can make a difference in the life of a child.

Pass it on...Mentor a Child

Speaking of making a difference—did you know that one of the best sources for recruiting potential mentors is through referrals by active CYS-Project Together mentors? If you know of a friend or relative who would be interested in sharing time with a child or teen, please encourage them to apply to become a mentor. Have them contact your regional volunteer coordinator to find out more about the program, or direct them to our website at www.ochealthinfo.com/behavioral/cyspt where they can complete an on-line interest card.

President Signs PROTECT Act

In early May, President Bush signed into law the PROTECT Act, a child protection law that, among other

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Volunteers Are Special!

Heather Dion: A Positive Influence in One Child's Life

Early last year, Heather Dion browsed the world wide web in search of a local volunteer program that could fulfill her desire to become a positive influence in a child's life. She found Children and Youth Services (CYS)-Project Together and decided to give the program a try. At the same time, a CYS therapist from East Region was looking to match her seven-year-old male client with a mentor. She was looking for

someone who could help him to develop social skills and involve him in activities that could facilitate motor development and independence. She was also seeking a mentor with whom he could build a healthy, trusting relationship. When the therapist met Heather, who was outgoing and energetic, she felt confident that she found the ideal match for the child.

"My first impression of him was that he was timid and untrusting," Heather recalled of her initial meeting with the youth. "It took several months for him to get used to me and it took me time to understand his moods," she said. She added that her greatest challenge was helping the youth understand why she was in his life. "He had a hard time distinguishing between me as a gift-giver, rather than just being his friend," she said. She noted that the training and supervision she received from CYS-

Project Together was very helpful in providing information on how to set boundaries with the youth regarding gifts and outings.

Heather is very creative when it comes to planning outings that are appropriate for the client and his needs. She said that during the summer they frequently visited a playground in the area. She was pleased to notice that after a few months, the boy began to interact socially with other children on the playground. The client's mother has also expressed her appreciation for Heather's commitment and is impressed with the great activities that she plans for her son.

"When I began our journey, I doubted my ability to have the positive effect (on him) he needed, but over a year later, I realized it isn't always those things you can see that have a positive effect. Instead, it is the small things that you can't see right away that truly make a lasting difference," said Heather.

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JUNE 2003

Calendar of Events

The CYS-Project Together Calendar is a collection of affordable, fun, wholesome and interesting events that can be enjoyed by children, teens and adults. To submit an item for the calendar, please call (714) 796-0100.

Sunday, June 1 4th Annual Celebration of the Arts

Yorba Linda Community Center and
Hurless Barton Park
4501 Casa Loma
Yorba Linda
(714) 996-1960

This community fine arts and music festival features free hands-on arts and music activities for children, a variety of food, continuous musical entertainment and numerous fine artists displaying their wares.

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: Free

Sunday, June 1 Concours d'Elegance

7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach
(714) 375-5023

Classic car show featuring elegant European sports cars, street rods, 50's cars, vintage and current motorcycles and vintage bicycles. Entertainment for all ages, food, Hot Wheels racing, a live parrot show and more will also be available throughout the day.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Cost: Children under 12	Free
Adults	\$10

Saturday, June 7 UCI Concert Choir

Winifred Smith Hall
School of the Arts
University of California, Irvine Campus
(949) 824-2787
Time: 8 p.m.
Cost: Free

Saturday, June 14 Ocean Discovery Day

Upper Newport Bay
University Drive and Irvine Avenue
Newport Beach
(949) 640-6746 or (949) 923-2269
Discover the ocean at Shellmaker Island. Activities include touch tanks, water tours, shark and ray exhibit, ocean tidepool exploration, and estuary mud discovery.

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: Free

Saturday, June 14 Juneteenth Celebration

Lillie King Park
500 W. Alton Ave.
Santa Ana
(714) 571-4200

African American freedom celebration featuring food and merchandise booths, arts and crafts projects for kids, information displays and entertainment.

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Cost: Free

Saturday, June 28 Sunday, June 29 Celebrate Tamales

Mission San Juan Capistrano
Ortega Highway at Camino Capistrano
San Juan Capistrano
(949) 234-1300

Enjoy a day-long festival celebrating the tamale, including corn masa demonstrations, Mexican market, musical entertainment, a 200 pound tamale, and eight tamale stations.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Cost: General Mission Entrance Fee	
Adults	\$6
Children 3-11	\$4
Additional fees for food	

For Your Information...

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provisions, includes a pilot program for streamlining national background checks for human service organizations, such as mentoring programs. This act is a significant step forward for organizations such as CYS-Project Together, since the new pilot program aims to streamline the background screening process, while reducing the cost of background checks and widening access to such checks. For more information, visit www.mentoring.org and click on "President Signs Protect Act."

Volunteers Are Special!

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Heather is not new to the mentoring experience. She mentored a middle-school child on a one-on-one basis while she was in college. Having prior experience, Heather said that what attracted her to CYS-Project Together was the supervision and guidance offered by both the therapist and volunteer coordinator.

Although Heather holds a full-time job with the Orange County Division, League of Cities, has recently earned her masters degree in Public Administration and has personal obligations, she still manages to adjust her schedule to be there for the child she mentors.

"My experience as a mentor has been both challenging and rewarding. However, I would take any associated challenge to reap the rewards of mentoring him. Not only have I had the chance to help a young boy experience and do things he otherwise would not have the opportunity to do, but I have also gained a friend for life. I look forward to our outings, his smile, and the possibility that our relationship will help him in the future."

—Veronica Chavez, CYS-Project Together
Volunteer Coordinator/East Region,
contributed information for this article.

Mentoring Tips and Tidbits

Home Visits

Occasionally, a mentor may wish to take his or her mentee home to share in a structured activity such as baking or cooking, making a craft project or participating in a mentor's family celebration. This type of outing can be beneficial to the child, but a few guidelines must be followed to insure that the outing is safe and productive for all involved.

- The first time a mentor plans a home outing, it is mandatory to discuss the plan with the supervising therapist and volunteer coordinator **PRIOR TO THE VISIT**. If the therapist agrees that a home visit is appropriate, the mentor, therapist and parent/guardian of the child must sign and date a CYS-Project Together Home Visit Permission Form. Your volunteer coordinator will have copies of the form and can assist you in completing it.
- Each subsequent time a mentor wishes to take his or her match home, the form does not need to be signed, however the mentor **MUST** inform the supervising therapist and volunteer coordinator of such plans prior to the visit. If the therapist agrees, the mentor is free to take the child home for a visit. This process must be repeated each time a home visit is planned.
- Limit home visits to a few hours during the day. Mentors are not allowed to take a child to their home for an extended visit or overnight.
- A copy of the mentor's current homeowner's/renter's insurance must be on file with the volunteer coordinator prior to a home visit.

All questions regarding home visitation should be directed to the mentor's volunteer coordinator.

There's More Than One Way to Hug a Child...

The staff and clients of Children and Youth Services (CYS) and CYS-Project Together deeply appreciate the wonderful support provided by many local businesses and organizations. Our affiliation with the Mental Health Association of Orange County allows us to accept and distribute community resources that are an important asset in the therapeutic process for all the children we serve. Each month, we extend our thanks and give recognition to our caring donors.

Lynn Kliest
Lake Forest

Statek Corporation
Orange

American Sewing Guild
Fullerton

Dr. Chantel Daitch
Westminster

Cheryl Pitts
Santa Ana

R. McLemore
Anaheim

Knott's Berry Farm
Buena Park

Michael Mullen
Santa Ana

Books Are Fun
Mission Viejo

Young Joon Kim
Fullerton

Professional Printers
Tustin

Karl Karcher
Enterprises, Inc.
Anaheim

Mentoring Matters

WELCOME NEW MENTORS

Costa Mesa	Francisco Alcazar
West	Shabnam Dezfulian John Muse
South/Laguna	Neda Khodaparast Jaimee Johnson Cherise Richey Roxanna Taghlavi
North	Dhruvi Thakker
Aspen/ Santa Ana	Rosa Zammaripa Natasha Rodriguez Sanaz Yaghmai Linda Aguilar
Aspen/Tustin	Raina Clampitt Sue Pennington Jackie Cruz

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

West	Daphne Yang
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THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED ON

South/ Costa Mesa	Jennifer Guran Wendy McCarthy
West	Billie Cline Laura Oldham Jacqueline Pham Scott Yoshizaki
Aspen/ Santa Ana	Dave DeLuca Dennis Sanders

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Debbie Campa	6/02
Polly Niravath	6/02
Joleen Aguon	6/03
Julie Bai	6/08
Yvette Gonzalez	6/10
Phillip Schreiber	6/14
Arthur Montes	6/23
Ray Santos	6/23
Jennifer Freiholtz	6/30
Trang Huynh	6/30

The Back Page



Paint...Brushes...Scissors...Glue...Fun!

Bob Passage, (left) and mentor Grace Passage, (far right) with the South/Laguna Region, along with a CYS client participated in the "paint and brushes" portion of the recent May mentor/client outing held at Mile Square Park.

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Published by:

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services

Children and Youth Services/*Project Together*

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North Sunney Shin (714)577-5422

South/Costa Mesa Jonathan Schiesel (714)850-8444

South/Laguna Lee Boon (949)499-8614

West Diane Prescott (714)896-7570

Aspen/Santa Ana Adrienne Davalos (714)565-2830

Aspen/Tustin Ken Cornwell (714)508-1919

The Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services/Children and Youth Services provides mental health treatment for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth and their families throughout Orange County. CYS-Project Together is a volunteer mentor program for CYS children and teens. The program also offers supportive resources to clients and families to assist them in achieving treatment goals. The program operates cooperatively with its community partner, the Mental Health Association of Orange County.



County of Orange Health Care Agency
Behavioral Health Services/Children & Youth Services

CYS-Project Together *Highlights*

405 W. 5th Street, Suite 436

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Address Correction Requested

